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## The Two Royal Commissions

Issued to JOHN REYNOLDS

As Governor of the Province of Georgia

When the charter creating the "Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia in America" was surrendered and it became necessary for the British sovereign to appoint a governor of the Province, George III. made choice of John Reynolds to fill that office. It does not appear that the commissions issued to him have anywhere been printed in full; but Colonel Charles C. Jones, Jr., in his "History of Georgia," Vol. I, pages 462-463, gives a synopsis of what they contain. In the sixth and seventh volumes of the "Colonial Records of Georgia," published by the State, the minutes of the President and Assistants and Governor and Council appear in almost complete form; but they show only that Governor Reynolds "produced" his commission, on each occasion and that it was "read," but not recorded, while the oath taken by him is printed.

At a meeting of the Georgia Historical Society, held on Monday, December 6, 1875, Mr. George Wymberley Jones DeRenne presented certified copies of the two commissions in the following letter:

Savannah, Ga., December 6, 1875.

*To the President of the Georgia Historical Society:*

SIR:

I desire to present through you to the Georgia Historical Society certified copies of the first royal commissions issued to the Governor of the Colony of Georgia, 1754.

As you are doubtless aware, the charter granted to the trustees was surrendered by them in 1752, and became thenceforth little more than a historical curiosity. The real Constitution of Georgia before the Revolution is to be found in these commissions to the first Governor, yet of such important

papers but one copy existed and that in manuscript, their very existence having been apparently forgotten.

That the knowledge of these commissions, the foundation of the whole colonial government and legislation of our State, may not perish, I have caused properly authenticated copies to be made and now give them to the Society for preservation in its archives and for publication among its collections if deemed fit.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. W. J. DeRENNE.

George the second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King defender of the faith and so forth. To our trusty and well beloved John Reynolds, Esquire, Greeting: We, reposing especial trust and confidence in the prudence, courage and loyalty of you, the said John Reynolds, of our especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion have thought fit to constitute and appoint, and, by these presents, do constitute and appoint you, the said John Reynolds, to be our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our Colony of Georgia in America, lying from the most northern stream of a river there commonly called Savannah, all along the sea coast to the southward unto the most southern stream of a certain other great water or river called Altamaha, and westward from the heads of the said rivers respectively in straight lines to the south seas, and of all that space circuit and precinct of land lying within said boundaries, with the Islands in the sea lying opposite to the eastern coast of the said lands, within twenty leagues of the same, and we do hereby require and command you to do and execute all things in due manner that shall belong unto your said command, and the trust we have reposed in you according to the several powers and authorities granted or appointed you by this present commission, and the instructions herewith given you, or by such further powers, instructions and authorities as shall at any time hereafter be granted or ap-

pointed you under our signet and sign manual, or by our order in our privy Council, and according to such reasonable law and statutes as now are in force or hereafter shall be made and agreed upon by you, with the advice and consent of our Council and the assembly of our said colony, under your government, in such manner and form as is hereafter expressed, and our will and pleasure is that you, the said John Reynolds, after the publication of these, our letters patents, do, in the first place, take the oaths appointed to be taken by an act passed in the first year of our late royal father's reign, entitled an act for the further security of His Majesty's person and Government, and the succession of the Crown in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia, being protestants, and for extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open and secret abettors, as also that you make and subscribe the declaration mentioned in an act of Parliament made in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King Charles the second, entitled an act for preventing danger which may happen from popish recusants, and likewise that you take the usual oath for the due execution of the office and trust of our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our said Colony of Georgia, for the due and impartial administration of justice; and further that you take the oath required to be taken by Governors of plantations to do their utmost that the several laws relating to trade and the plantations be observed. Which said oaths and declaration our Council in our said colony, or any three of the members thereof, have hereby full power and authority and are required to tender and administer unto you, and in your absence to our Lieutenant Governor, if there be any upon the place, all which being duly performed you shall administer to each of the members of our said Council, also to our Lieutenant Governor, if there be any upon the place, the oaths mentioned in said act entitled, An act for the further security of His Majesty's person and Government, and the succession of the crown in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia, being protestants, and for extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open and

secret abettors, as also to cause them to make and subscribe the forementioned declaration and to administer to them the oath for the due execution of their places and trusts. And we do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority to suspend any of the members of our said Council from sitting, voting and assisting therein if you shall find just cause for so doing, and if there shall be any Lieutenant Governor him likewise to suspend from the execution of his command, and to appoint another in his stead until our pleasure be known. And if it shall at any time happen that by the death, departure out of our said colony, or suspension of any of our said councillors, or otherways there shall be a vacancy in our said Council, any three whereof we do hereby appoint to be a quorum, our will and pleasure is that you signify the same unto us by the first opportunity, that we may, under our signet and sign manual, constitute and appoint others in their stead; but, that our affairs may not suffer at that distance for want of a due number of Councillors, if ever it shall happen that there shall be less than seven of them residing in our said colony, we do hereby give and grant unto you, the said John Reynolds, full power and authority to choose as many persons out of the principal freeholders, inhabitants thereof, as will make up the full number of our said Council to be seven, and no more, which persons so chosen and appointed by you shall be to all intents and purposes Councillors in our said colony, until either they shall be confirmed by us or that by the nomination of others by us, under our sign manual and signet. Our said Council shall have seven or more persons in it, and we do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority, with the advice and consent of our said council, from time to time as needs shall require to summon and call General Assemblies of the said freeholders and planters within your government, in manner and form as directed by the instruction herewith given you. And our will and pleasure is that the persons thereupon duly elected by the major part of the freeholders of the respective districts, counties, and places, and so return shall before their sitting take the oath mentioned in the

said act entitled, An act for the further security of His Majesty's Person and Government and the succession of the Crown in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia, being protestants, and for extinguishing the hopes of the Pretended Prince of Wales and his open and secret abettors, as also make and subscribe the aforementioned declaration which oaths and declaration you shall commissionate fit persons under our seal of Georgia to tender and administer unto them, and until the same shall be so taken and subscribed, no person shall be capable of sitting, though elected, and we do hereby declare that the persons so elected and qualified shall be called and deemed the General Assembly of that our colony. And you, the said John Reynolds, with the consent of our said Council and Assembly, or the major part of them respectively, shall have full power and authority to make, constitute and ordain laws, statutes and ordinances for the public peace, welfare and good government of our said colony and of the people and inhabitants thereof, and such others as shall resort thereto, and for the benefit of us, our heirs and successors, which said laws, statutes and ordinances are not to be repugnant but as near as may be agreeable unto the laws and statutes of this our Kingdom of Great Britain: Provided, that all such laws, statutes and ordinances of what nature or duration soever, be, within three months, or sooner, after the making thereof, transmitted unto us under our seal of Georgia for our approbation or disallowance of the same, as also duplicates thereof, by the next coveyance; and in case any or all of the said laws, statutes and ordinances being not before confirmed by us shall at any time be disallowed, and not approved, and so signified by us, our heirs and successors, and under our or their sign manual and signet, or by order of our or their privy Council unto you, the said John Reynolds, or to the Commander in Chief of our said colony, for the time being, then such and so many of the said Laws, Statutes and Ordinances as shall be so disallowed and not approved shall from henceforth cease, determine and become utterly void and of none effect, anything to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And to

the end that nothing may be passed or done by our said Council or Assembly to the prejudice of us, our heirs and successors, we will and ordain that you, the said John Reynolds, shall have and enjoy a negative voice in making and passing all laws statutes and ordinances, as aforesaid, and you shall and may likewise, from time to time as you shall judge it necessary, adjourn, prorogue and dissolve all general Assemblies as aforesaid. And our further will and pleasure is that you shall and may use and keep the public Seal of our colony of Georgia for sealing all things whatsoever that pass the great seal of our said colony under your government. And we do further give and grant unto you, the said John Reynolds, power and authority from time to time or at any time hereafter, by yourself or by any other to be authorized by you in that behalf, to administer and give the aforementioned oaths to all and every such person and persons as you shall think fit who shall at any time or times pass into our said colony or shall be resident or abiding there. And we do further by these presents give and grant unto you, the said John Reynolds, full power and authority, with the advice and consent of our said Council, to erect, constitute and establish such and so many courts of judicature and public justice within our said colony under your government as you and they shall think fit and necessary for the hearing and determining all causes as well criminal as civil, according to law and equity, and for awarding of execution thereupon with all reasonable and necessary powers, authorities, fees and privileges thereto, as also to appoint and commissionate fit persons in the several parts of your government to administer the oaths mentioned in the aforesaid Act entitled An Act for the further security of His Majesty's person and government and the succession of the crown in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia, being protestants, and for extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open and secret abettors, as also to tender and administer the aforesaid declaration unto such persons belonging to said courts as shall be obliged to take the same. And we do hereby authorize and empower you to constitute and appoint judges,

and in cases requisite commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, Justices of the Peace, and other necessary officers and ministers in our said colony, for the better administration of justice and putting the laws in execution, and to administer or cause to be administered unto them such oath or oaths as are usually given for the due execution and performance of officers and places and for the clearing of truth in judicial causes. And we do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority where you shall see cause or shall judge any offender or offenders in criminal matters, or for any fines or forfeitures due unto us fit objects of our mercy, to pardon all such offenders and to remit all such offenses, fines and forfeitures, treason and wilful murder only excepted, in which cases you shall likewise have power upon extraordinary occasions to grant reprieves to the offenders, until and to the intent our royal pleasure may be known therein. And we do, by these presents, authorize and empower you to collate any person or persons to any churches, chapels, or other ecclesiastical benefices within our said colony aforesaid, as often as any of them shall happen to be void. And we do hereby give and grant unto you the said John Reynolds, by yourself or by your captains and commanders by you to be authorized full power and authority to levy, arm, muster, command and employ all persons whatsoever residing within our said colony of Georgia under your government, and, as occasion shall serve, to march from one place to another, or to embark them for the resisting and withstanding of all enemies, pirates and rebels, both at sea and land, and to transport such forces to any of our plantations in America, if necessity shall require, for the defense of the same against the invasion or attempts of any of our enemies, and such enemies, pirates and rebels, if there shall be occasion, to pursue and prosecute in or out of the limits of our said colony and plantations, or any of them, and if it shall so please God them to vanquish, apprehend and take, and being taken, either according to law to put to death or keep and preserve alive at your discretion, and to execute martial law in time of inva-



sion, or other times when by law it may be executed, and to do and execute all and every other thing and things which to our Captain General and Governor in Chief doth or ought of right to belong. And we do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority by and with the advice and consent of our said council to erect, raise, and build in our said colony of Georgia such and so many forts, platforms, castles, cities, boroughs, towns and fortifications as you by the advice aforesaid shall judge necessary, and the same or any of them to fortify and furnish with ordnance, ammunition, and all sorts of arms fit and necessary for the security and defense of our said colony, and by the advice aforesaid the same again or any of them to demolish or dismantle as may be most convenient. And, for as much as diverse mutinies and disorders may happen by persons shipped and employed at sea during the time of war, and to the end that such as shall be shipped and employed at sea during the time of war may be better governed and ordered, we do hereby give and grant unto you, the said John Reynolds, full power and authority to constitute and appoint Captains, Lieutenants, Masters, of ships and other commanders and officers and to grant unto such Captains, Lieutenants, Masters, of ships or other commanders and officers, commissions to execute the law martial during the time of war according to the directions of two Acts, the one passed in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Charles the second, entitled An Act for the establishing articles and orders for the regulating and better government of His Majesty's Navies, Ships of War and forces by sea, etc. The other passed in the eighteenth year of our reign, entitled An Act for the further regulating and better government of His Majesty's Navies, ships of War and forces by sea and for regulating proceedings upon Courts Martial in the sea service, and to use such proceedings, authorities, punishments, corrections and executions upon any offender or offenders who shall be mutinous, seditious, disorderly, or any way unruly, either at sea or during the time of their abode or residence in any of the ports, harbours, or bays of our said colony, as the cause shall

be found to require, according to martial law, and the said directions, during the time of war as aforesaid, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to the enabling you or any by your authority to hold plea or have any jurisdiction of any offense, cause, matter or thing committed or done upon the high sea, or without any of the havens, rivers or creeks of our said colony under your government, by any Captain, Commander, Lieutenant, Master, Officer, Seaman, Soldier or other person whatsoever who shall be in our actual service and pay in or on board any of our ships of war or other vessels, acting by immediate commission or warrant from our Commissioners for executing the offices of our High Admiral, or from our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, under the seal of our Admiralty; but that such Captain, Commander, Lieutenant, Master, Officer, Seaman, Soldier or other person so offending shall be left to be proceeded against and tried as their offenses shall require either by commission under our great seal of Great Britain, as the statute of the twenty-eighth of Henry the Eighth directs, or by commission from our said commissioners for executing the office of our High Admiral or from our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being according to the aforementioned Acts for the establishing Articles and Orders for the regulating and better government of His Majesty's Navies, Ships of war and forces by sea, and not otherwise provided. Nevertheless, that all disorders and misdemeanors committed on shore by any Captain, Commander, Lieutenant, Master, Officer, Seaman, Soldier or other person whatsoever, belonging to any of our ships of war or other vessels acting by immediate commission or warrant from our said Commissioners for executing the office of our High Admiral or from our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being under the seal of our Admiralty, may be tried and punished according to the laws of the place where any such disorders, offenses, misdemeanors, shall be committed on shore, notwithstanding such offender be in our actual service and borne in our pay on board any such our ships of war or other vessels acting by immediate commission or warrant from our

said commissioners for executing the office of our High Admiral, or from our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being as aforesaid, so as he shall not receive any protection for the avoiding of justice for such offenses committed on shore from any pretense of his being employed in our service at sea. And our further will and pleasure is that all public money raised, or which shall be raised by any act to be hereafter made within our said colony be issued out by warrant from you by and with the advice and consent of our Council and disposed of by you for the support of the government and not otherways. And we do hereby likewise give and grant unto you full power and authority by and with the advice and consent of our said Council to settle and agree with the inhabitants of our colony aforesaid for such Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments as now are or hereafter shall be in our power to dispose of, and them to grant to any person or persons upon such terms and under such moderate Quite Rent Services and acknowledgements to be thereupon reserved unto us as you, by and with the advice aforesaid, shall think fit, which said grants are to pass and be sealed by our seal of Georgia, and, being entered upon record by such Officer or Officers as are or shall be appointed hereunto, shall be good and effectual in law against us, our heirs and successors. And we do hereby give you, the said John Reynolds, full power and authority to order and appoint fairs, marts, and markets, as also such and so many ports, Harbors, Bays, Havens and other places for the convenience and security of shipping, and for the better loading and unloading of goods and merchandise as by you, with the advice and consent of our said Council shall be thought fit and necessary. And we do hereby require and command all Officers and Ministers, Civil and Military, and all other inhabitants of our said colony, to be obedient, aiding and assisting unto you, the said John Reynolds, in the execution of this our commission and of the powers and authorities herein contained; and in case of your death or absence out of our said colony to be obedient, aiding and assisting unto such person as shall be appointed by us to be our Lieutenant Governor or Commander

in Chief of our said colony, to whom we do therefore, by these presents, give and grant all and singular the powers and authorities herein granted to be by him executed and enjoyed during our pleasure, or until your arrival within our said colony.

And if, upon your death, or absence out of our said colony, there be no person upon the place commissioned or appointed by us to be our Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief of our said province, our will and pleasure is that the eldest councillor whose name is first placed in our said instruction to you and who shall be, at the time of your death or absence, residing within our said colony of Georgia shall take upon him the administration of the government, and execute our said commission and instructions, and the several powers and authorities therein contained, in the same manner and to all intents and purposes as other our Governor or Commander in Chief of our said colony should or ought to do in case of your absence, until your return or in all cases until our further pleasure being known therein. And we do hereby declare, ordain and appoint that you, the said John Reynolds, shall and may hold, execute and enjoy the office and place of our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our colony of Georgia, together with all and singular the powers and authorities hereby granted unto you for and during our will and pleasure. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself at Westminster the sixteenth day of August in the twenty-eighth year of our reign.

By writ of privy seal,

YORK & YORK.

(Great Seal)

STATE OF GEORGIA,

OFFICE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 1, 1875.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirteen pages contain a true and correct copy of the original commission from the records of this office.

Given under my hand and official seal.

(Signed)

N. C. BARNETT, Secretary of State.

George the Second by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith. To our beloved John Reynolds, Esqr., our Captain General and Governor in Chief of our province of Georgia in America, Greeting: We, confiding very much in your fidelity, leave, and circumspection in this behalf, do, by these presents which are to continue during our pleasure only, ordain, constitute & depute you, the said John Reynolds, Esqr., our Captain General and Governor in Chief aforesaid, our Vice Admiral, Commissary and Deputy in the Office of Vice Admiralty, in our Province of Georgia aforesaid, and territories thereon depending, and in the maritime parts of the same and thereto adjoining, whatsoever, with power of taking and receiving all and every of the fees, profits, advantages, emoluments, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever due and belonging to the said office of Vice Admiral, Commissary and Deputy in our said Province of Georgia and Territories dependent thereon and maritime parts of the same and adjoining to them whatsoever according to the ordinances and statutes of our high court of Admiralty of England, and we do hereby commit and grant unto you, the aforesaid John Reynolds, Esqr., our power and authority in and throughout all our province of Georgia aforementioned, and territories thereof and maritime parts whatsoever adjacent thereto, and also throughout and every part of the sea shores, public streams, ports, fresh water rivers, creeks and arms, as well of the sea, as of the rivers and coasts whatsoever of our said Province of Georgia and territories dependent thereon and maritime parts whatsoever of the same and thereto adjacent as, well within liberties and franchises as without to take cognizance of and proceed in all causes, civil and maritime, and in complaints, contracts, offenses or suspected offenses, crimes, pleas, debts, exchanges, accounts, charter parties, agreements, suits, trespasses, injuries, extortions, and demands, and business, civil and maritime whatsoever, commenced or to be commenced between merchants or between owners and proprietors of ships and other

vessels and merchants or others whomsoever, with such owners and proprietors of ships and all other vessels whatsoever employed or used within the maritime jurisdiction of our Vice Admiralty of our said province of Georgia and territories depending on the same, or between any other persons whomsoever had made, began or contracted for any matter, thing, cause or business whotsoever done or to be done within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, together with all and singular their incidents emergencies, dependencies, annexed and connexed, causes whatsoever, wheresoever or howsoever, and such causes, complaints, contracts and other the premises abovesaid, or any of them, which may happen to arise, be contracted, had or done. To hear and determine according to the rights, statutes, laws, ordinances and customs anciently observed, and moreover in all and singular complaints, contracts, agreements, causes and business, civil and maritime, to be performed beyond the sea or contracted there, howsoever arising or happening, and also in all and singular other causes and matters which in any manner whatsoever touch or any way concern or anciently have and do or ought to belong unto the maritime jurisdiction of our aforesaid Vice Admiralty in our said province of Georgia and territories thereon depending, and maritime parts thereof, and to the same adjoining, whatsoever and generally, in all and singular other causes, suits, crimes, offenses, excesses, injuries, complaints, misdemeanors or suspected misdemeanors, trespasses, regratings, forestallings, and maritime businesses whatsoever throughout the places aforesaid within the maritime jurisdiction of our Vice Admiralty of our Province of Georgia aforesaid, and territories thereon depending, by sea or water, or the banks or shores of the same, howsoever done, committed, perpetrated or happening, and also to inquire by the oath of honest and lawful men of our said province of Georgia and territories dependent thereon and maritime parts of the same and adjoining to them whatsoever dwelling both within liberties and franchises, and without as well of all and sin-

gular such matters and things which of right and by the statutes, laws, ordinances and customs anciently observed were wont and ought to be enquired after, as of wreck of the sea and of all and singular the goods and chattels of whatsoever traitors, pirates, manslaughterers and felons howsoever, offending within the maritime jurisdiction of our Vice Admiralty of our province of Georgia aforementioned, and territories thereunto belonging and of the goods, chattels and debts of all and singular their maintainers, accessories, councillors, abettors or assistants whomsoever, and also of the debts, goods and chattels of whatsoever person or persons, felons of themselves by what means or howsoever coming to their death within our aforesaid maritime jurisdiction wheresoever any such goods, debts and chattels or any part thereof by sea, water or land in our said province of Georgia and territories thereon dependent and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent whatsoever as well as within liberties and franchises as without have been or shall be found forfeited or to be forfeited, or in being and moreover as well of the goods, debts and chattels of whatsoever other traitors, felons and manslaughterers wheresoever offending, and of the debts, goods and chattels of their maintainers, accessories, councillors, abettors or assistants as of the goods, debts and chattels of all fugitives, persons convicted, attained, condemned, outlawed or howsoever put or to be put inexecutable for treason, felony, manslaughter or murder, or any other offense or crime whatsoever, and also concerning goods waveing Flotson, Jetson, Lagon, shares and Treasure found or to be found, Deodands, and of the goods of all others whatsoever taken or to be taken as derelict or by chance found or to be found or howsoever due or to be due and of all other casualties as well in, upon, or by the sea and shores, creeks or coasts of the sea, or maritime parts as in, upon, or by all fresh water ports, public streams, rivers or creeks, or places overflowed whatsoever, within the ebbing and flowing of the sea, or high water upon the shores or banks of any of the same within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, howsoever, when-

soever, or by what means soever arising, happening, or proceeding or wheresoever such debts goods and chattels, or other the premises, or any parcel thereof, may or shall happen to be not with or found within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, and also concerning anchorage, lastage and ballast of ships and of fishes royal, namely Sturgeons, Whales, Porpoises, Dolphins, Riggs and Grampuses, and generally of all other fishes whatsoever which are of a great or very large bulk of fatness, anciently by right of custom or any way appertaining or belonging to us. And to ask, require, levy, take, collect, receive and obtain and to the use of us and the office of our High Admiral of Great Britain aforesaid, for the time being, to keep and preserve the said wreck of the sea and the goods, debts and chattels, and all and singular other the premises, together with all and all manner of fines mullets, issues, forfeitures, amercements, ransoms, recognizances whatsoever forfeited or to be forfeited and pecuniary punishments for trespasses, crimes, injuries, extortions, contents and other misdemeanors, whatsoever, howsoever imposed or inflicted or to be imposed or inflicted for any matter cause or thing whatsoever in our said Province of Georgia, and territories thereunto belonging, and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjoining, in any court of our Admiralty there held or to be held presented or to be presented, assessed, brought, forfeited or adjudged, and also all amercements, issues, fines, perquisites, mullets and pecuniary punishments whatsoever, and forfeitures of all manner of recognizances before you or your Lieutenant, Deputy or Deputies in our said Province of Georgia, and Territories thereunto belonging, and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent whatsoever, happening or imposed or to be imposed or inflicted or by any means assessed, presented, forfeited, or adjudged or howsoever by reason of the premises due or to be due in that behalf, to us or our heirs and successors; and further to take all manner of recognizances, cautions, obligations, and stipulations, as well to our use as at the instance of any parties for agreements or debts and other causes what-



soever, and to put the same in execution, and to cause and command them to be executed and also to arrest and cause and command to be arrested according to the civil and maritime laws and ancient customs of our said court all ships, persons, things, goods, wares and merchandizes for the premises, and every of them, and for other causes whatsoever concerning the same whensoever they shall be met with or found throughout our said Province of Georgia and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts thereof and thereto adjoining within liberties and franchises, or, without, and likewise for all other agreements, causes or debts howsoever contracted or arising, so that the goods or persons of the debtors may be found within our jurisdiction aforesaid and to hear, examine, discuss and finally determine the same with their emergencies, dependencies, incidents annexed and connexed, causes and businesses whatsoever, together with all causes, civil and maritime and complaints, contracts and all and every the respective promises whatsoever, above expressed, according to the laws and customs aforesaid, and by all other lawful ways, means and methods, according to the best of your skill and knowledge, and to compel all manner of persons in that behalf as the case shall require to appear and to answer with power of using any temporal coercion, and of inflicting any other penalty or mulct according to the laws and customs aforesaid, and to do and minister justice according to the right order and course of the law summarily, and plainly looking only into the truth of the fact and to fine, correct, punish, chastize and reform and imprison, and cause and command to be imprisoned, in any gaols being within our Province of Georgia aforesaid and territories thereunto belonging to parties guilty and the contemners of the law and jurisdiction of our Admiralty aforesaid, and violators, usurpers, delinquents and contumacious absenters, masters of ships, mariners, rowers, fishermen, shipwrights, and other workmen and artificers whatsoever, exercising any kind of maritime affairs, according to the rights, statutes, laws, ordinances and customs an-

ciently observed, and to deliver and absolutely discharge and cause and command to be discharged whatsoever persons imprisoned in such cases who are to be delivered and to preserve and cause to be preserved the public streams, ports, rivers, fresh waters and creeks whatsoever within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, in what place soever they be in our said Province of Georgia and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent whatsoever, as well for the preservation of our Navy Royal and of the fleets and vessels of our kingdoms and dominions aforesaid as of whatsoever fishes increasing in the rivers and places aforesaid, and also to keep and cause to be executed and kept in our said Province of Georgia and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts thereof and thereto and adjacent whatsoever, the rights statutes, laws, ordinances and customs anciently observed to do, exercise, expedite and execute all and singular other things in the premises, and every of them, as they by right and according to the laws and statutes, ordinances and customs aforesaid should be done, and moreover to reform nets too close and other unlawful engines, or instruments whatsoever, for the catching of fishes wheresoever, by sea or public streams, ports, rivers, fresh waters or creeks whatsoever throughout our Province of Georgia aforesaid, and territories dependent thereon and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent, used or exercised by water within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid wheresoever, and to punish and correct the exercises and occupiers thereof according to the statutes, laws ordinances, and customs aforesaid, and to pronounce, promulge and interpose all manner of sentences and decrees and to put the same in execution with cognizance and jurisdiction of whatsoever other causes civil and maritime which relate to the sea or which any manner of ways respect or concern the sea, or passage over the same, or naval or maritime voyages, or our said maritime jurisdiction, or the places or limits of our said Admiralty and cognizance aforementioned, and all other things done or to be done,

with power also to proceed in the same according to the statutes, laws, ordinances and customs aforesaid, anciently used as well of meer office, mixt or promoted as at the instance of any party as the case shall require and seem convenient. And likewise with cognizance and decision of wreck of the sea, great or small, and of the death, drowning and view of dead bodies of all persons howsoever killed, or drowned or murdered, or which shall happen to be killed, drowned, or murdered, or by any other means come to their death in the sea, or public streams, ports, fresh waters or creeks, whatsoever, within the flowing of the sea and high water mark throughout our aforesaid Province of Georgia and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent, or elsewhere within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid, together with the cognizance of mayhem in the aforesaid places within our maritime jurisdiction aforesaid and flowing of the sea and water there happening, with power also of punishing all delinquents in that kind according to the exigencies of the law and customs aforesaid, and to do, exercise, expedite and execute all and singular other things which in and about the premises only shall be necessary or thought meet according to the rights, statutes, laws, ordinances and customs aforesaid, with the power of deputing and surrogating in your place for the premises one or more deputy or deputies, as often as you shall think fit, and also with power from time to time of naming, appointing, ordaining, assigning, making and constituting whatsoever other necessary fit and convenient officers and ministers unto you, for the said office and execution thereof, in our said province of Georgia and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjacent whatsoever (saving always the right of our high court of Admiralty of England and also of the judge and register of the said court from whom or either of them it is not our intention in anything to derogate by these presents and saving to every one who shall be wronged or grieved by any definitive sentence or interlocutory decree which shall be given in

the Vice Admiralty court of our Province of Georgia aforesaid, and territories thereunto belonging, the right of appealing to our aforesaid high court of Admiralty of England) provided nevertheless, and under this express condition, that if you, the aforesaid John Reynolds, Esq., our Captain General and Governor in Chief aforesaid shall not yearly (to-wit) at the end of every year, between the Feasts of St. Michael the Archangel and All Saints duly certify or cause to be effectually certified (if you shall be thereunto required) to us and our Lieutenant Official Principal and Commissary General and Special and Judge and President of the high court of our Admiralty of England aforesaid all that which from time to time by virtue of these presents you shall do, execute, collect, or receive in the premises, or any of them, together with your full and faithful account thereupon, to be made in an authentic form and sealed with the seal of our office remaining in your custody, that from thence and after default therein these our Letters Patent of the office of Vice Admiral aforesaid as above granted shall be Null and Void and of no force or effect. Further, we do, in our name, command all and singular our Governors, Justices, Mayors, Sheriffs, Captains, Marshals, Bailiffs, Keepers of all our goods and Prisons, Constables, and all other our officers and faithful and Liege Subjects whatsoever, and every of them, as well within liberties and franchises as without. That in and about the execution of the premises and every of them they be aiding, favoring, assisting, submissive and yield obedience in all things as is fitting to you, the said John Reynolds, Esq., our Captain General, Governor in Chief of our Province of Georgia aforesaid, and to your deputy whomsoever and to all other officers (by you appointed or to be appointed) of our said Vice Admiralty in our province of Georgia aforesaid and territories thereunto belonging and maritime parts of the same and thereto adjoining, under pain of the law and the peril which will fall thereon. Given at London in the High Court of our Admiralty of England afore-

said under the great seal thereof on the thirteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Fifty-four, and of our reign the twenty-eighth.

(L. S.)

SAM HILL, Register.

STATE OF GEORGIA,

OFFICE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 1, 1875.

I hereby certify that the foregoing eleven pages contain a true and correct copy of the original commission from the records of this office.

Given under my hand and official seal.

(Signed)

N. C. BARNETT,

Secretary of State.